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Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar:—" May I know whether under the scheme formulated, Madras would be able to get a supply from Mettur?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—" It is too early to reply to that question."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar:—" I thought the Government would have a programme before they started on the scheme."

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—" Yes. But the present programme does not include Madras. Government do not feel that there is any great necessity for securing current for Madras from Mettur. I should be glad to think that the present service is satisfactory."

*Electrification of Tiruchengode, Salem district.*

* 395 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) at what stage the electrification of the town of Tiruchengode in Salem district now is;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that Messrs. Octavius Steel and Company, the contractors for distribution of energy in Salem area are not willing to lay the line and incur capital expenses since their contract period has much advanced now; and

(*c*) if so, whether the copy of the letter addressed by the company to the Government will be placed on the table together with a copy of the reply of the Government thereon?

*A.*—(*a*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 323 (*a*) asked by him.

(*b*) Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co. are the Managing Agents of the Salem-Erode Electricity Distribution Company which holds the licence for the area in question. They have informed the Chief Engineer for Electricity that they will proceed with the scheme of extending supply of power to Tiruchengode if the Government will construct H.T. lines in their area of supply against a guaranteed revenue of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum. The matter is under the consideration of Government.

(*c*) The company have not addressed any letter to the Government on the subject.

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—" May I ask, Sir, with regard to other areas for which licences have been granted, whether the cost of laying high tension lines were met by the licensees or by the Government?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—" There is only one such instance. The Ootacamund Municipality in their attempt to

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supply electricity to Coonoor has purchased the high tension lines already existing. I am not aware of any other private agency which has constructed high tension lines."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"When that is the position, Sir, why should this company want the cost of high tension lines being met by Government?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"Twelve and a half per cent."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether it is not a fact that representations have been made to the Government, that, where the distribution of electric energy is not already in the hands of private agencies, it should be done by the Government or local bodies?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"The Government have not come to a conclusion on the representations. The matter is under the consideration of the Government and wherever possible the Government have been distributing electric energy themselves. But this is an area covered by a licence granted to a private company."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"Is not 12½ per cent a sufficient attraction to Government? May I know why it has not been accepted?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"Unless the return is guaranteed it will not be accepted."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"Am I to understand, Sir, that the scheme for electrification of Tiruchengodu would not be taken up if the Government do not come forward to put up the high tension lines?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"That does not follow, Sir."

*Electrification of Kodumudi, Coimbatore district.*

* 396 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) at what stage the electrification of Kodumudi in Coimbatore district is;

(*b*) when it is likely to be completed and the town to get the benefit of electric energy; and

(*c*) what the reasons are for the delay?

*A.*—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Chief Engineer for Electricity reports that the investigation and studies so far made indicate that the extension of supply to Kodumudi will not be remunerative and that it is proposed to carry out another survey within the next six months if possible and re-examine the question.